

California M E D I C I N E

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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EDITORIAL

C.M.A. Constitution and By-Laws

Printed in this issue are the new Constitution and By-Laws of the California Medical Association. These documents were voted into existence at the Annual Session in May 1951.

The new documents provide various changes in the method of election of members of the Council. They also bring out a new form of representation of the county medical societies in the House of Delegates and provide several organizational changes from the former documents.

The C.M.A. Council, under the new Constitution, will include Councilors of 11, rather than the former nine, Councilor Districts. The new Councilors will be elected by the delegates from their own districts, rather than by the House of Delegates as a whole, but the right of any District Councilor to serve may be challenged by any delegate in the House of Delegates. Councilors-at-large are elected as formerly, with not more than two of the six to be elected from any Councilor District.

In the House of Delegates, provision has been made for only elected delegates and their corresponding alternates to be officially seated. Each county society will hereafter be represented by a minimum of two delegates; the former Constitution placed the minimum at one.

Another important change from the old Constitution and By-Laws lies in the provision for holding two meetings of the House of Delegates each year. Under this provision plans have already been made for the interim session of the House of Delegates to meet in San Francisco on December 1 and 2, 1951. This will be the initial session of this type and it is expected that the business of the Association and of California Physicians' Service will be greatly expedited by the additional time available for consideration of the problems coming before the House.

All members of the Association are urged to read these new articles and to keep them for future ref-

erence. They establish the method under which the Association is formed and operated, and every member should gain for himself a full understanding of their provisions.

In contemplating the new Constitution and By-Laws it is easy to forget the tremendous amount of time and work which has gone into their making. When the interests of close to 11,000 members and 39 county medical societies must be considered, when the various geographical and population factors are given adequate weight, it is apparent that the drafting of official governing documents is no easy task. Two committees of the House of Delegates labored for two years to produce the draft of the present regulations, and then a period of one year elapsed before they were brought up for vote. Even then, several amendments were incorporated in the new By-Laws after the basic rules had been approved by the House of Delegates.

Now lying on the table, awaiting consideration at the 1952 Annual Session, are several proposed amendments to the Constitution. This is evidence of the fact that not all members of the Association were completely happy with the documents adopted this year. The views of such members will be given full consideration in next year's meeting.

The new Constitution and By-Laws supplant earlier documents adopted in 1935 and amended in many particulars since that time. The new articles are designed to eliminate faulty and cumbersome provisions in the earlier version and to bring the governing articles of the Association in line with current needs and conditions.

Every member of the California Medical Association has a direct stake in the provisions of the new articles, both as to their effect on himself and on his own county medical society. The pages carrying these provisions should be studied by all.